



California Office of Traffic Safety
7000 Franklin Blvd., Suite 440
Sacramento, CA 95823



California Highway Patrol
2555 1st Avenue
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

November 26, 2001

Dear Editor,

The holidays are a time for joyous celebrations with loved ones. Regrettably, this holiday season hundreds of Californians will mourn the loss of a loved one due to impaired driving.

This December, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and California Highway Patrol (CHP) will launch the state's annual **Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D)** Prevention Month to help put an end to the senseless tragedies caused by driving under the influence. The OTS encourages all Californians to take part in this year's campaign by pledging to celebrate responsibly during the holiday season. Every individual can do their part by taking part in simple activities, such as serving as a designated driver, taking the keys from those that have been drinking, providing non-alcoholic drinks during holiday celebrations and never serving alcohol to minors. These simple acts can make a world of difference.

Alcohol-related crashes touch hundreds of lives each year. Last year in California, alcohol-related crashes killed 1,233 people and injured more than 30,000. These are crashes, not accidents. They are preventable. But by working together, we can help make our roadways safe.

Celebrate safely and responsibly this holiday season. The best gift you can give a loved one is keeping everyone safe – at home and on the road.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Becher".

Teresa Becher
Interim Director
California Office of Traffic Safety

Editor's Note: We encourage you to bring this important issue to your readers' attention. Please use this letter, to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving. For more information, please contact Mike Marando, OTS, at (916) 262-2975.

**Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2000 provisional data.*